

After this ruling there was no doubt as to the dominating power of the National Committee over the convention. The Steam Roller went smoothly, relentlessly, and even proudly forward, crushing out all opposition. The committee's choice for temporary chairman, Senator Elihu Root, placed in nomination and, by the votes of the 74 contested delegates whose names had been placed on the roll by the committee, was elected. The result of the ballot showed how vital their votes were, for the figures were 558 for Mr. Root and 501 for his chief opponent, with 19 scattering and not voting.

To have taken chances with less than 74 votes would have been reckless, for the Steam Roller would have been thrown off the track, thus making the convention itself the nominating power.

When Mr. Root had taken the chair and had delivered his address, the Roosevelt leaders renewed their protest against allowing the 74 contested delegates to vote in the selection of committees of the convention, including the committee on credentials. Mr. Root overruled the protest, sustaining his decision on the ground of party precedent and parliamentary practice. In giving his decision, he said:

"No man can be permitted to vote upon the question of his own right to a seat in the convention, but the rule does not disqualify any delegate *whose name is upon the roll* from voting upon the contest of any other man's right or from participating in the ordinary business of the conven-

tion so long as he holds Ms seat. Otherwise,  
any minority  
could secure control of a deliberative body by  
grouping a  
sufficient number of their opponents in one  
motion, and by  
thus disqualifying them turn the minority into  
a majority  
without any decision upon the merits of the  
motion.

To hold that a member whose seat is  
contested may take  
no part in the proceedings of this body would  
lead to the  
conclusion that if every seat were contested,  
as it surely  
would be if such a rule were adopted, there  
could be no